

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05 /094 W
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R 241728Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5800
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PRIS
USUN NEW YORK 339

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 0763

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ML, FR, PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: GISCARD'S VISIT - THE SOVIET VIEW

REF: BAMA KO 0722

1. SOVIET EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY (CULTURAL AFFAIRS)
VALERI VOLIANSKY ASKED DCM AT SOCIAL FUNCTION FEBRUARY 22
WHAT HE THOUGHT OF GISCARD VISIT. DCM SAID IT HAD BEEN
SUCCESS FOR BOTH FRENCH AND MALIANS. VOLIANSKY LOOKED
SKEPTICAL. HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN FEW CONCRETE
RESULTS TO SHOW FOR VISIT. ONLY RESULT HE COULD SEE
WAS CONTINUATION OF FRANCO-MALIAN ECONOMIC ACCORDS
OF 1972. FRANCE WOULD JUST PROP UP THE BUDGET. DCM
SAID CONTINUING SUPPORT OF MALI FRANC AND BUDGET WAS IMPORTANT
TO MALI. VOLIANSKY SAID A CLOSE READING OF THE COMMUNIQUE WOULD
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SHOW THAT NOT MUCH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

2. VOLIANSKY THEN SAID THAT CROWDS HAD BEEN SMALL AND
UNENTHUSIASTIC. DCM SAID HE HAD BEEN IN CROWD WITH
HIS CHILDREN AND MALIANS HAD BEEN GENUINELY WARM,
FRIENDLY AND ENTHUSIASTIC. THEY HAD NOT BEEN
COMPELLED TO ATTEND. VOLIANSKY THEN SAID THAT CARTER OR

BREZHNEV WOULD HAVE RECEIVED SAME WELCOME.

3. DCM SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT FORMER COLONY HAD IMPROVED ITS RELATIONS WITH FORMER METROPOLE. VOLIANSKY SAID THAT FRANCE'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN MALI WERE DECLINING. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, HE SAID, HAD MORE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC INTERESTS, AS DID UNITED STATES. DCM SAID U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS HERE WERE RATHER LIMITED. WARMING TO SUBJECT, VOLIANSKY SPUN OUT HIS THEORY: FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND UNITED STATES HAD PUT FRENCH UP TO GISCARD VISIT. TRUE PURPOSE OF VISIT HAD BEEN POLITICAL, AND FRANCO-MALIAN ECONOMIC ASPECTS ONLY A COVER. FRANCE WAS PROTECTING WESTERN ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

4. DCM SAID THAT FRANCE AND USSR WERE DOMINANT INFLUENCES IN MALI, NOT UNITED STATES OR WEST GERMANY. DCM ASKED ABOUT USSR-MALI TRADE. VOLIANSKY SAID, LAUGHINGLY, THAT THEY BOUGHT MALIAN PEANUTS. DCM ASKED WHAT USSR SOLD. VOLIANSKY LAUGHED AGAIN. DCM SUGGESTED MILITARY EQUIPMENT. DCM ASKED HOW SOVIETS EVERY EXPECTED MALIANS TO PAY FOR ALL THE EQUIPMENT THEY HAD BOUGHT. VOLIANSKY SAID HE WAS GLAD HE WOULD HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT PROBLEM. LET THE COMMERCIAL TYPES WORRY ABOUT THAT, HE SAID. DCM SAID MALIANS COULD NOT REPAY. VOLIANSKY AGREED.

5. COMMENT: VOLIANSKY IS A FRIENDLY, SOMETIMES NAIVE ACADEMIC WITH PRIOR STUDY IN ALGIERS AND ALMOST THREE YEARS IN BAMAKO. HE ENJOYS SALLYING FORTH WITH OFFICIAL LINE BUT SHOWS CONSTERNATION WHEN CONFRONTED WITH CONVINCING EVIDENCE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTRARY, FOR EXAMPLE, CONCERNING REACTION OF MALIAN CROWD. HE SEEMS TO BE TESTING OFFICIAL LINE. WE HAVE NO DOUBT SOVIETS ARE TELLING MALIANS THAT GISCARD VISIT BROUGHT LITTLE TO MALI, THAT SINISTER FORCES HAD PUSHED FRENCH (IGNORING FACT THAT MALIAN PRESIDENT HAD INVITED GISCARD), AND THAT RETYING COLONIAL LINKS TO BENEFIT INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM WAS TRUE FRENCH OBJECTIVE. IT IS UNLIKELY SOVIETS WILL MAKE HEADWAY WITH THIS WEAK LINE.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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